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FM USINT HAVANA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 9089
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES
RUEHWH/WESTERN HEMISPHERIC AFFAIRS DIPL POSTS
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C O N F I D E N T I A L HAVANA 011895

SIPDIS

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STATE DEPT FOR WHA/CCA AND G/TIP

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/07/2016

TAGS: [KCRM](#) [KWMN](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [CU](#)

SUBJECT: CUBA RELEASE OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT

REF: A. STATE 88231

[1](#)B. STATE 85480

Classified By: COM Michael Parmly for Reason 1.4(d).

[1](#)1. (C) Cuba's Tier 3 placement in the 2006 Trafficking in Persons Report presents a challenge in terms of informing the host country, given the Cuban Government's hostility to U.S. criticism and the paucity of news sources available to ordinary Cubans. Since mid-January, the Cubans have refused all of our requests for appointments with their Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MinRex), regardless of the issue.

[1](#)2. (C) For these reasons, USINT favors targeting, to the extent that we can, the Cuban people, rather than the GOC. Cubans will not be surprised to hear that the island is a destination for sex tourists, or that large numbers of Cuban minors are commercially exploited sexually, sometimes with the complicity of GOC officials. However, we do see some utility in informing the Cuban public that when it comes to trafficking in persons, their country ranks with chronic offenders such as Burma and North Korea.

[1](#)3. (C) We are announcing Cuba's Tier 3 classification on our streaming billboard. We also intend to use some or all of the following options:

- (a) distributing a press release on this subject to accredited and independent Cuban journalists and librarians, and to the scores of human rights activists with whom we are in frequent contact;
- (b) having our COM take part in an interview with Radio Marti, which attracts considerable interest on the island;
- (c) translating a brief summary of the TIPR and making it available to all NIV, IV/Parole and Refugee applicants, as well as to users of USINT's Internet centers;
- (d) sharing the aforementioned press release or summary with the embassies of Britain, Canada, Czech Republic, Norway, Poland, Slovakia and other missions interested in promoting human rights in Cuba.

PARMLY